

Standby Team of Mediation Experts 2015/16

Established in March 2008, the Standby Team of Mediation Experts is a service of the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) situated in the Mediation Support Unit (MSU) within the Policy and Mediation Division (PMD). It is a specialized resource that can be rapidly deployed on a temporary basis into the field to provide technical advice to UN officials and others engaged in conflict prevention or mediation efforts. The Team's services are available to current United Nations envoys, political and peacekeeping missions and country teams, as well as to regional organizations and partner organizations with whom the United Nations works closely in conflict mediation and good offices worldwide. Team members can be deployed in any configuration, either as individuals, a small group or the entire Team.

"We wish to see the United Nations and all our partners make full use of the potential of mediation to prevent, manage and resolve disputes and conflicts. We need to have the know-how, the operational dexterity, and the partnerships to undertake mediation professionally and effectively."

*Ban Ki-moon,
Secretary-General of the United Nations
13 September 2012*

The principal operational role of the Standby Team is to provide expert advice to senior UN officials or other partners, upon request, either by deploying to the field or, in some cases, by providing advice remotely. This support is flexible and can be adapted to the needs of the situation and can include: providing technical expertise in a specific area; giving advice on procedural and agenda-setting issues; providing analysis of the positions of parties in negotiations, including the identification of potential points of convergence as well as possible gaps; drafting the text of agreements; leading workshops for parties on substantive or process issues; and providing specialised mediation training and coaching.

Team members are experienced in mediation situations and experts in a range of issues that arise frequently in peace negotiations, including overall design of processes, security arrangements (ceasefires/DDR/SSR), constitutional issues, power-sharing, natural resources, and gender and inclusion. When not deployed in the field, the members of the Team are on permanent standby, carrying out research and coordinating reviews of best practices in their area of expertise. Furthermore, the Team members are responsible for producing operational guidance notes and related training materials, and assisting MSU with the development of a network of experts in their areas of expertise.

Administration of the Standby Team

The Standby Team support is provided in response to requests from UN officials or other partners. The Standby Team is a fully-funded resource and support is provided at no cost to requesting entities. Flights for any member of the Team can be

booked at a moment's notice, using funds already available to the Team. All political and policy decisions regarding the use of the Standby Team are made by the Department of Political Affairs. Administrative and logistical support to the team is provided by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

Thematic Composition



GEORGE ANDERSON (Canada – Power-sharing; Natural Resources; Constitutions) has had a distinguished career in the public service of Canada, serving as Deputy Minister of Natural Resources (2002-05), Deputy Minister of Inter-governmental Affairs (1996-2002), as well as Assistant Deputy Minister in the energy, finance and foreign ministries. From 2005-11 he was President of the Forum of Federations, working on federal and constitutional issues within multiple African, Asian, and Middle Eastern contexts. Mr. Anderson served on the Standby Team initially in 2011-12, engaging in processes including those in the Central African Republic, Yemen, the Philippines, Iraq and Western Sahara. Following his initial tenure on the Standby Team, he served as a senior fellow at the Centre for Constitutional Transitions at New York University and collaborated with the DPA Constitutional Focal Point on building DPA's knowledge base, while also advising on United Nations efforts in Yemen and Somalia. He is an expert in power-sharing - particularly federalism, autonomy and minority rights, and also has considerable expertise on natural resources and constitutional issues more generally. He has published leading books and papers on these subjects. He speaks English and French.



ALEJANDRO BENDAÑA (Nicaragua - Security Arrangements; Mediation, Dialogue and Facilitation Process Design) has provided mediation and security expertise in a number of conflicts, including Central America, East Asia and Africa. From 1980-82, he served as Ambassador of Nicaragua to the United Nations. He has dealt with disarmament, demobilization, reintegration of ex-combatants and reconstruction issues in his home country, in Central America and in Colombia. He has worked as a mediation/reconciliation advisor in Sri Lanka, Mozambique, the Philippines and Indonesia. In recent years, he worked for UNDP in Somalia dealing with DDR, rule of law and security sector reform. He was recently a member of the UN Expert Group for the Global Thematic Consultation on Conflict and Fragility for the post-2015 Development Agenda and is presently on the Advisory Group for the UNDP/Berghof Foundation assessment of 'Infrastructures for Peace.' He speaks Spanish and English.



SAKUNTALA KADIRGAMAR-RAJASINGHAM (USA - Gender and Social Inclusion; Power-sharing, Constitutions) is a Visiting Research Fellow at the Australian National University, Canberra. She brings over twenty years of experience working in conflict and post-conflict countries advising on constitutional and governance issues, as well as promoting gender and social inclusion. In Yemen, as a senior advisor to the UN, she supported the national dialogue process and advised on politically sensitive issues. In Somalia, she was a senior constitutional advisor to the UN Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) on issues related to the political transition and the completion and the provisional adoption of the constitution. In Nepal she was senior constitutional advisor to UNDP, promoting dialogue and trainings for the Constituent Assembly and civil society. She has worked for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), as the Senior Constitution Advisor and as Head of the Asia program, and has also consulted for the World Bank. She has supported constitutional and political reform processes and women's political and economic participation in a number of countries, particularly in Asia and Africa. She speaks English.



JEFFREY MAPENDERE (Zimbabwe - Security Arrangements; Mediation, Dialogue and Facilitation Process Design) has worked in Africa, Asia and the Middle East on a wide range of conflicts. He was the Assistant Director of the Carter Centre's Conflict Resolution Programme (2003-07), and repeatedly served as The Carter Center's Field

Office Director for Sudan and South Sudan in 2009 and 2011. As a member of the Standby Team, he has worked extensively for the UN on the Darfur peace process in Doha from 2010 to 2012, and has also supported good offices efforts in the Central African Republic, Nepal, Somalia, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Yemen and elsewhere. From 2012 to 2013, he was the senior advisor to the lead Facilitator for the Kampala Dialogue process. Mr. Mapendere has also served as a security arrangements advisor to the South Sudan process, as well as a trainer and advisor to the Darfur armed groups under the AUHIP in 2014. In addition, Mr. Mapendere has been a lead trainer on ceasefires, process design and gender and mediation. His personal experience as a member of a liberation movement and the national army in Zimbabwe enables him to advise on a wide range of security issues including negotiating ceasefires, DDR and SSR arrangements, and engaging armed groups. He speaks English.



BRENDAN MCALLISTER (Ireland - Mediation, Dialogue and Facilitation Process Design; Gender and Social Inclusion) has over 40 years of experience of peace activism and mediation in his native Northern Ireland. After an initial career in social work, Mr. McAllister became Director of Mediation Northern Ireland in 1992 and was responsible for the development of indigenous peace mediation, bringing it to bear on a wide range of issues including political dialogue, police reform, public sector reform, prisoner engagement, community relations, social cohesion and public order. Mr. McAllister also worked on racial and communal tension and gang violence in North West England. In 2008 he was appointed Commissioner for Victims and Survivors of the Northern Ireland conflict. Since 2012 he has been a Senior Associate of mediatEUr, the European Forum for International Mediation and Dialogue, providing training, mentoring and advice to EU officials and NGOs and working on assignments in Yemen, Afghanistan, Nepal, Pakistan, Kosovo and Ukraine. He speaks English.



PIERRE-YVES MONETTE (Belgium - Natural Resources; Constitutions; Mediation, Dialogue and Facilitation Process Design) has provided mediation expertise to the United Nations since 2010 in different capacities, including as a member of the Standby Team, notably in the Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Mali and the Maldives. In CAR, he coached and assisted the National Mediator in the 2011 ceasefire process between the government and the main rebel groups; he then negotiated and co-drafted the 2013



Constitutional Charter of the Transition. In Mali, he was sent to help the MINUSMA to support the implementation of the 2013 Ouagadougou Agreement and to support the Algerian-led peace talks in 2014-15. He was the Federal Mediator of his country (Belgium) between 1997 and 2005. Between 2007 and 2011, he led the European Federation of Water and Sanitation, which gathered the vast majority of public, private and mixed water industries and services of Europe. In that capacity, he was active in addressing water-related conflicts in the Middle East and Europe. Mr. Monette was also the 2nd laureate for the position of European Mediator (elected by the European Parliament) in 2010, and is the honorary Counsellor to the Belgian Head of State (King Philippe I). He speaks French, English, Spanish and Dutch.



MARK MULLER (UK - Mediation, Dialogue and Facilitation Process Design)

is a senior British barrister (Queen's Counsel) and an international lawyer who specialises in public international law and human rights. For many years he has advised international bodies on conflict resolution and mediation, confidence-building, ceasefires, power-sharing, international law, human rights, and dialogue processes. Since 2005 he has acted as a Senior Advisor to several key mediation NGOs including the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Beyond Conflict and Inter-Mediate. He has first-hand experience of Track 1 and 2 negotiations between governments and armed groups and has worked in a number of conflict zones including Afghanistan, Iraq, Columbia, Georgia, Libya and Syria. Most recently, he has been assisting Humanitarian Dialogue in Ukraine. Between 2006-12 he was Chair of the Bar Human Rights Committee and then head of Rule of Law (2012-15) for the Bar Council of England and Wales. He is also the founder of Beyond Borders - a Scottish initiative dedicated to fostering peace and international understanding through cultural dialogue. Mr. Muller is a fellow of Harvard Law School. He speaks English.



CHRISTINA MURRAY (South Africa - Constitutions; Power-sharing)

is a Professor of Constitutional and Human Rights Law at the University of Cape Town. As a member of the Standby Team, she has been assisting the UN Special Advisor for Yemen, Jamal Benomar and his office, first providing support to the Yemeni National Dialogue Conference, and advising the Constitutional Drafting Committee. She has also advised the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) on constitution-making in Libya. In addition, she

has contributed to strengthening DPA's in-house constitutional capacity through support to the development of Constitutionmaker, an online resource for practitioners. Ms. Murray has worked mainly on constitution making processes, constitutional design, including devolution, power-sharing and implementing post-conflict constitutions. Before joining the Standby Team, she was a member of the Kenyan committee that drafted the 2010 Constitution and the 2012 Fiji Constitution Commission. She speaks English.

For further information or to discuss possible support, please contact the Chief MSU Robert Dann at dann@un.org (+1-212-963-7603) or the MSU Standby Team focal point, Mr. Juan Jeannet Arce at jeannetarce@un.org (+1-212-963-8044).